

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1072

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SEDU, PINS, ET
SUBJ: UPDATE OF ADDIS ABABA SCHOOL SITUATION

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 928, B. ADDIS ABABA 827, C. ADDIS ABABA 653

SUMMARY: ADDIS ABABA UNIV. AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS OFFICIALLY RESUMED CLASSES FEB 21, AFTER MINED HAD INSTRUCTED THEM TO DO SO IN ANNOUNCEMENT PUBLISHED TWO DAYS EARLIER. DESPITE MINISTRY'S WARNING THAT STERN MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE INSTIGATING BREAKDOWN OF SCHOOL DISCIPLINE, ONLY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACTUALLY RETURNED TO CLASS YESTERDAY, AND BOYCOTT APPARENTLY WILL CONTINUE. MINISTRY ALSO ESTABLISHED NEW GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL CONDUCT, BANNING ALL UNAUTHORIZED MEETINGS AND CARRYING OF ARMS, FORBIDDING COERCION, AND STIPULATING THAT SCHOOL DISCUSSIONS BE CONDUCTED IN DEMOCRATIC MANNER. ALTHOUGH UNIV. AND SCHOOLS OUTWARDLY CALM, PROSPECTS FOR RESUMPTION OF FULL CLASS SCHEDULE CONTINUE TO BE POOR. END SUMMARY.

1. FEB 19 MINED ANNOUNCEMENT STATED ADDIS ABABA SECONDARY AND HIGHER SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOULD RESUME CLASSES FEB 21. MINISTRY URGED CHILDREN AND PARENTS OF OPPRESSED MASSES TO STRUGGLE AGAINST DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS. STATEMENT CLAIMED ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTS PERPETRATED IN ADDIS ABABA SCHOOLS PART OF OVERALL PLOTS
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AGAINST ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIRECTIVES TO SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS, MINISTRY STATEMENT SAID STUDENTS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO STUDY OUTSIDE NORMAL SCHOOL SCHEDULE TO MAKE UP FOR TIME WHICH HAS BEEN LOST. PARENTS, PROGRESSIVE AND PATRIOTIC TACHERS AND OTHER PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS URGED TO COLLABORATE FOR SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF SCHOOLS. STATEMENT WARNED STERN MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE INSTIGATING SCHOOL DISRUP-

TIONS AND CALLED ON TEACHERS AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES TO ENFORCE DISCIPLINE STRICTLY. STATEMENT ADDED UNAUTHORIZED MEETINGS BANNED, SCHOOL DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN DEMOCRATIC MANNER, AND NO ARMS SHOULD BE CARRIED INTO SCHOOL. ADDIS ABABA U. ISSUED SIMILAR STATEMENT ANNOUNCING CLASSES WOULD RESUME FEB 21. AAU ALSO NOTED IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLETE COURSES IN TIME UNLESS STUDENTS COOPERATED IN RESUMING INTERRUPTED CLASSES.

2. RELIABLE SOURCES REPORT STUDENT REACTION TO STATEMENTS HAS BEEN MIXED, WITH MOST STUDENTS REMAINING AWAY FROM CLASSES FOR VARIETY OF REASONS. ONE SOURCE STATED SOME HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES HAVE RESUMED AT SCATTERED LOCATIONS BUT OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF STUDENTS CONTINUING BOYCOTT. SOURCE BELIEVED INTIMIDATION OF BULK OF STUDENT BODY BY POLITICALLY ACTIVE MINORITY OF PRO-EPRP STUDENTS ONE OF FACTORS RE-ENFORCING BOYCOTT. SECOND RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED ONLY SMALL PERCENTAGE, PROBABLY ABOUT 10 PERCENT, OF UNIV. STUDENTS ATTENDED CLASS YESTERDAY. SOURCE BELIEVED THESE MAINLY THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR STUDENTS WHO HAD FAINT HOPES OF COMPLETING AT LEAST CURRENT SEMESTER. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF SMALL INITIAL ATTENDANCE, SOURCE BELIEVED PROSPECTS WERE REMOTE OF UNIV. RETURNING TO FULL SCHEDULE.

3. COMMENT: ALLEGED ARRESTS OF MANY STUDENT-AGE YOUTH IN CONNECTION WITH FEB 12 INCIDENTS, SITUATION AT UNIVERSITIES, HIGH SCHOOLS, AND AMONG OTHER STUDENT-AGE ADDIS ABABA YOUTH ADD UP TO DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR EPMG. MINED STATEMENT MILD REACTION RELATIVE TO MEASURES AT EPMG DISPOSAL
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WHICH COULD BE TAKEN. ETHIOPIAN GOVT APPARENTLY REMAINS DETERMINED TO COMPLETE NORMAL SCHOOL YEAR IN ADDIS ABABA, DESPITE UNCOMPROMISING OPPOSITION AMONG MANY STUDENTS. IT IS NOT YET POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER EPMG WILL BE ABLE TO ENFORCE RESUMPTION OF ADDIS ABABA SECONDARY AND UNIVERSITY CLASSES, ALTHOUGH OUTLOOK IS NOT GOOD.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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From: ADDIS ABABA
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